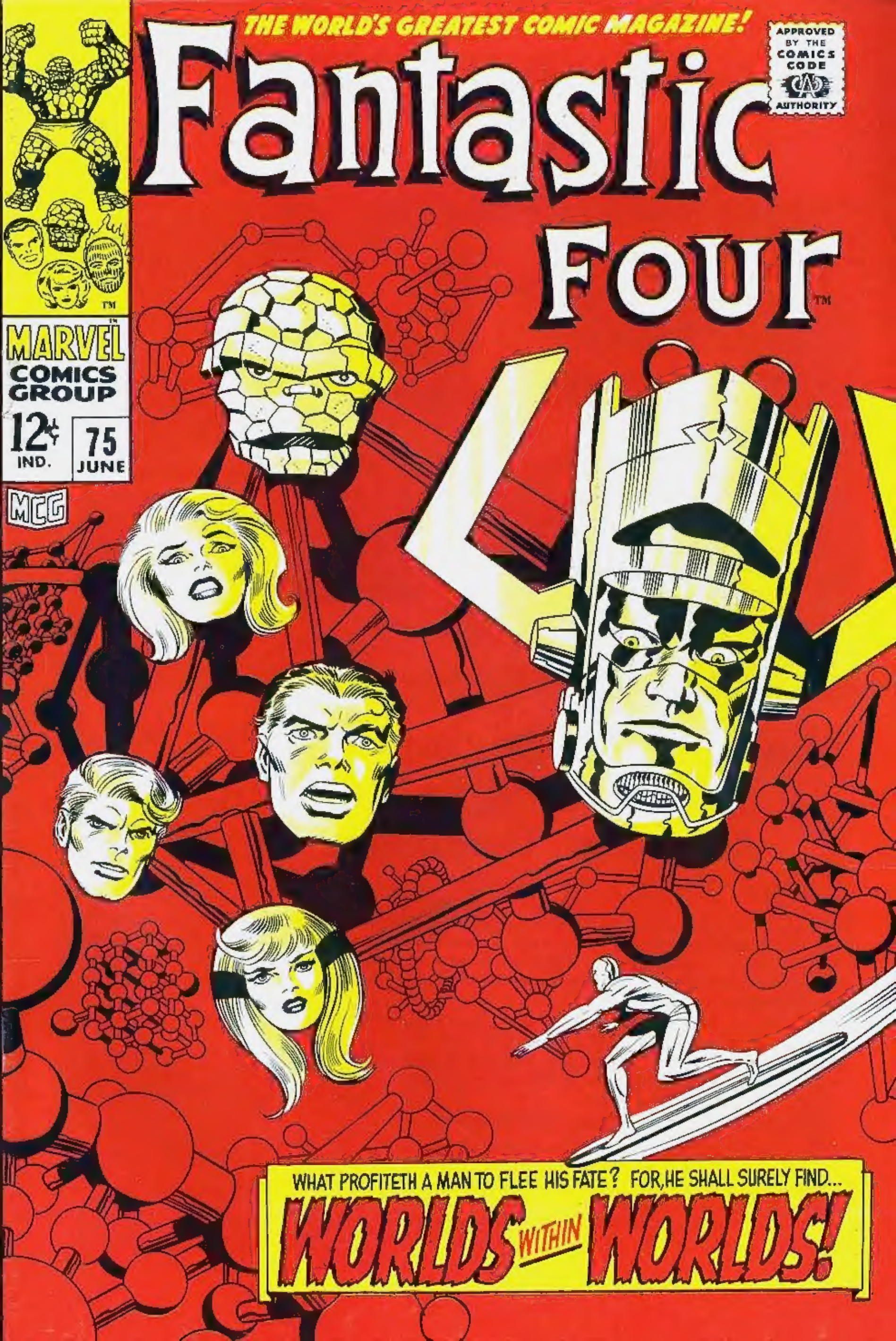
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Fantastic Four
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WORLDS WITHIN WORLDS!

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GALACTUS TOSSED THE PUNISHER AT US 'N WE CLOBBERED 'IM!*
SO WHAT'RE WE WORRIED ABOUT?
THAT OVERSIZED SPACE ZOMBIE CAN'T SCARE ME!
YOU'RE WHISTLING IN THE DARK, BENJAMIN!
GALACTUS DOESN'T CARE ABOUT US! WE'RE VIRTUALLY BENEATH HIS NOTICE!
IT'S THE SILVER SURFER HE'S AFTER--
AND HE'S CAPABLE OF DESTROYING AN ENTIRE WORLD IN ORDER TO GET HIM!
ANY MORE BRIGHT QUESTIONS, BENJY BOY?
*IT HAPPENED RIGHT HERE, IN FF#74! SEE WHY IT BREAKS OUR HEARTS WHEN YOU MISS AN ISH?--SYMPATHETIC STAN.
NUTS! I DON'T CARE WHAT YA SAY!
I'M SICK 'N TIRED'A WAITIN' AROUND FOR SOMETHIN' TO HAPPEN!
THPOOM!
COOL IT, BIG BUDDY!
NO SENSE WASTING YOUR STRENGTH ON TREE TRUNKS--
--'SPECIALLY WHEN WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE IN FOR!
AND TRY THINKING OF SOMEONE ELSE FOR A CHANGE!
REMEMBER, SUE IS STILL IN THE CITY--ALONE WITH CRYSTAL!
DO YOU THINK I LIKE BEING AWAY FROM HER--AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
AWRIGHT, AWRIGHT! I GIT YER POINT!
SO LONG AS THE SILVER SURFER REMAINS HIDDEN, GALACTUS WILL--LOOK!
I KNEW HE WOULDN'T GIVE UP! HE'S STILL SEARCHING--WITH A SPACE RAY!
REED! WHAT IF HE--FINDS HIM?
2

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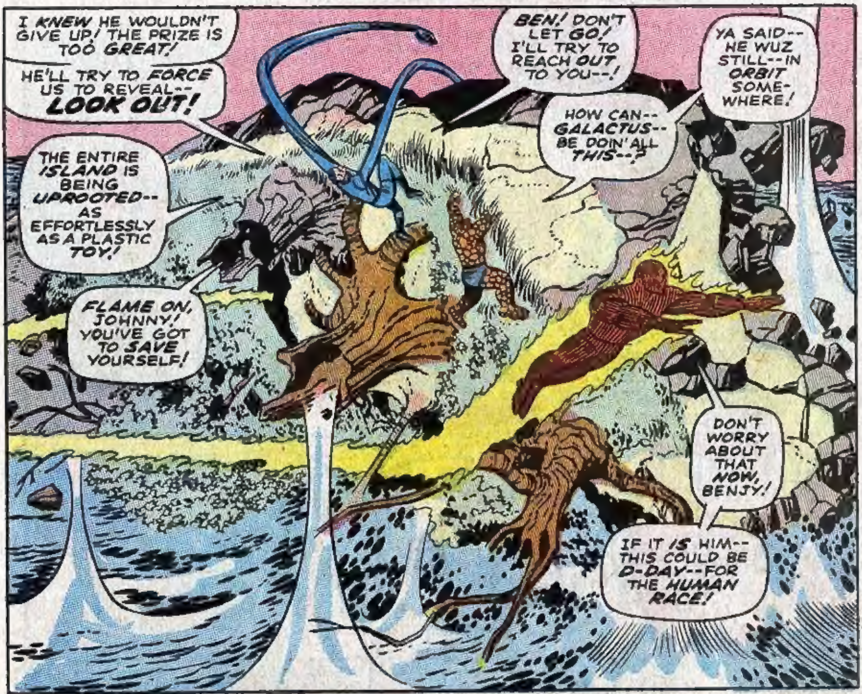
BUT, HE CANNOT HIDE HIMSELF FROM ME!
NOT FROM ONE WHO CAN LEVEL A CONTINENT, ATOM BY ATOM, TILL THE PRIZE HE SEEKS IS FOUND!
ALTHOUGH I HAVE GIVEN MY WORD-- THE INVIOLATE BOND OF GALACTUS-- NEVER TO MENACE THE PLANET EARTH--
THE SILVER SURFER MUST BE FOUND!!
4

AND, FOUND HE SHALL BE!
FOR MY NEVER-ENDING HUNGER MUST BE APPEASED--
AND ONLY HE CAN FIND GALACTUS A WORLD--A WORLD WHOSE ENERGY I MUST SWIFTLY DRAIN--ELSE I SURELY STARVE!
BUT, IS IT NOT ORDAINED THAT GALACTUS MUST NEVER STARVE?
SOONER WOULD I BREAK MY VOW--AND LEAVE THE EARTH AN EMPTY LIFELESS SHELL!
STILL, THERE YET MAY BE ANOTHER COURSE--
THOSE HUMANS HAVE BEFRIENDED MY SPACE-BORN QUARRY!
NOW MUST THEY BE COMPELLED--TO BETRAY HIM!
THUS, BY THE POWER OF TRANSCENDENT THOUGHT, I MUST STRIKE--
--FROM ACROSS THE CHASM OF A BILLION LIGHT YEARS!
HEY! THE ISLAND'S BEGINNIN' TO SHAKE!!
THIS IS NUTTY! WHO EVER HEARD OF AN EARTHQUAKE--HERE IN NEW YORK?!!
IT'S MORE THAN THAT, BEN--
IT'S GALACTUS--AT LAST!
5



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BEN'S GONE! AND NOW--I TOO--AM POWERLESS--!
SPINNING AROUND--IN THIS WHIRLPOOL--TOO FAST--TO ESCAPE!
BEING DRAWN DOWN--UNDER THE SURFACE--
MY ONLY CHANCE--SHAPE MYSELF LIKE A LIVING BALL--
WILL BE ABLE--TO STORE SOME OXYGEN--THIS WAY!
REED! BEN!
THEY BOTH VANISHED--WITH THE SINKING ISLE!
IT HAPPENED SO FAST--THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO!
BUT, IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS! NOT--AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THRU!
I'VE GOT TO REACH THEM--TO SAVE THEM--SOMEHOW!
BUT, SUDDENLY--BEFORE THE HUMAN TORCH CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE--
HEY! NOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?
THEY'RE FLOATING UPWARD--LIKE TOY BALLOONS!
HE DIDN'T WANT TO KILL US--
HE HAS A MORE INCREDIBLE OBJECTIVE!
7

JOHNNY! STAY BACK! DON'T FOLLOW US--!
NO! I'VE GOT TO! YOU NEED ME!
IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN-- UP HERE--!!
WE'VE GONE TOO FAR!!
IT'S THE EDGE OF SPACE!!
MY FLAME'S DIED OUT!
FIRE CAN'T BURN-- WITHOUT OXYGEN!
THERE'S-- NO AIR-- LEFT!
THAT'S ALL WE NEEDED--
A SCIENCE LESSON-- WHILE WE SUFFOCATE!
WE'RE-- STARTIN' TO-- FREEZE!
CAN'T LAST-- MUCH LONGER!
REED--'N THE KID--ALREADY LOOK DONE FOR!
BUT THEN, A SUDDEN, INDESCRIBABLE, IMPOSSIBLE UPHEAVAL OCCURS! A TOTALLY NOISELESS EXPLOSION! AN INVISIBLE BLAZE OF LIGHT! A MOTIONLESS SURGE OF SPEED!
AND, WHEN THE MAD, INCOMPREHENSIBLE CATACLYSM IS FINALLY ENDED--
8

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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THAT WAS HIS PURPOSE!
HE MADE SOULLESS REPLICAS OF US!
BEN! LOOK OUT! THEY'RE ATTACKING!!
YEAH-- I KINDA NOTICED!
THEY EVEN HAVE THE SAME POWERS AS WE DO!
WE'RE EACH BEING ASSAULTED BY OUR OWN COUNTER-PART!
WELL, I'LL BEAT MY CARBON COPY TO THE PUNCH!
HERE'S WHERE THE REAL HUMAN TORCH STRIKES FIRST!
UNHHH!! IT--DIDN'T WORK!
HE MET MY BLAST-- WITH A BOLT OF ENERGY--
LIKE NOTHING-- I EVER FELT BEFORE!
HOW CAN THE SURFER-- HOPE TO STAY HIDDEN--
FROM A POWER-- THAT CAN CREATE-- BEINGS LIKE THIS?!!
AND, SINCE THE TORCH ASKED--
WITH EACH PASSING SECOND I GROW SMALLER!
SOON I SHALL ATTAIN SUB-ATOMIC SIZE!
FOR, ONLY BY VANISHING INTO A DROP OF CHEMICAL FLUID--HERE ON A MICROSCOPE SLIDE IN THE LABORATORY OF REED RICHARDS--
CAN I HOPE TO LOSE MYSELF IN A WORLD FAR BENEATH THE NOTICE OF ALL-SEEING GALACTUS!
10

HERE, WITHIN THIS TOTALLY ALIEN UNIVERSE--THIS MAD MENAGE OF WHIRLING MOLECULES--
HERE SHALL I HIDE--TILL GALACTUS ABANDONS HIS QUEST!
EVEN WITHIN THE SMALLEST BIT OF MATTER--
AN ENDLESS COSMOS MAY EXIST!
FOR SIZE IS EVER-CHANGING, EVER-RELATIVE--
AND, THE SUN AND PLANETS I SEE BEFORE ME PROVE, BEYOND ALL DOUBT, THAT THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN--AND WILL ALWAYS BE--WORLDS WITHIN WORLDS!
11

MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, OUR DAUNTLESS DERRING-DOERS ARE HAVING TROUBLE ENOUGH IN THEIR OWN PARTICULAR WORLD! VOILA--
STAY WITH IT, BEN!
HE MAY EQUAL YOUR STRENGTH-- BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR BATTLE KNOW-HOW?
UHHH!-- CAN'T TALK ANY MORE! HAVE TO FIGHT BACK MYSELF--!
THAT'S OKAY, STRETCHO--
YA ALREADY SAID ENUFF!
HEY! WHAT GIVES?
THAT DIDN'T EVEN SLOW 'IM DOWN!
WHAT'S HE BUSTIN' UP THAT BOULDER FOR?
THPAMM
OKAY, SO I ASKED A DOPEY QUESTION!
BUT A LITTLE THING LIKE THAT AINT GONNA PUT THE KIBOSH ON AMERICA'S FAVORITE LUMPY-SKINNED SWEETIE!
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
AND I GOT ME A HUNCH I CAN!
12

MY OWN COUNTERPART IS TRYING TO CRUSH ME--WITH A METALLIC GRIP!
I'VE GOT TO MAKE MY BODY EXPAND --TO ITS FULLEST EXTENT!
I DID IT!
I BROKE HIS GRIP--AND FLUNG HIM AWAY!
BUT, HE'S ATTACKING AGAIN--
USING HIS FLEXIBLE LIMBS IN A MORE DANGEROUS WAY THAN I WOULD EVER DO!
IT'S LIKE FIGHTING MYSELF!
EXCEPT THIS VERSION OF ME IS A MURDEROUS KILLER!
FTASSK!
ONLY MY OWN FLEXIBILITY--
--COULD HAVE SAVED ME THEN!
13

BUT, HE'S COMPLETELY RELENTLESS!
HE WON'T GIVE ME A MINUTE TO RECOVER-- TO STRIKE BACK!
UNNHH!
HE--PINNED ME--WITH A SUDDEN-- HAMMER WEDGE!
THERE'S-- NO WAY OUT NOW!
I'VE GOT TO-- DESTROY HIM! IT'S MY LIFE-- OR HIS!
I DIDN'T--WANT TO! WANTED TO RESTRAIN HIM--GET MESSAGE BACK--TO GALACTUS!
BUT--HE'S TOO-- DANGEROUS!
HOWEVER, BEFORE THE FIGHTING LEADER OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER-TEAM CAN LAUNCH HIS COUNTER-ATTACK--
LET GO OF HIM, YOU ROTTEN, RUBBER-SKINNED RAT!
ZAT
GOOD BOY, JOHNNY! YOUR FLAME BOLT DROVE HIM BACK!
--AND, THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!
THEY WERE EACH CREATED FOR ONE PURPOSE--TO FIGHT THEIR COUNTERPARTS!
BUT, IF WE SWITCH OPPONENTS--THEY WON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE US!
I READ YOU, BOSS MAN!
IT'S WORTH A TRY!
YOU TACKLE THE PHONY, TORCH--
WHILE I TRY TO HELP BEN!
WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST--TO KEEP THEM OFF-BALANCE!

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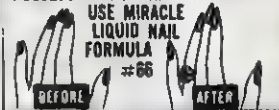

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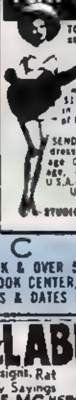

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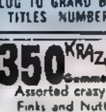

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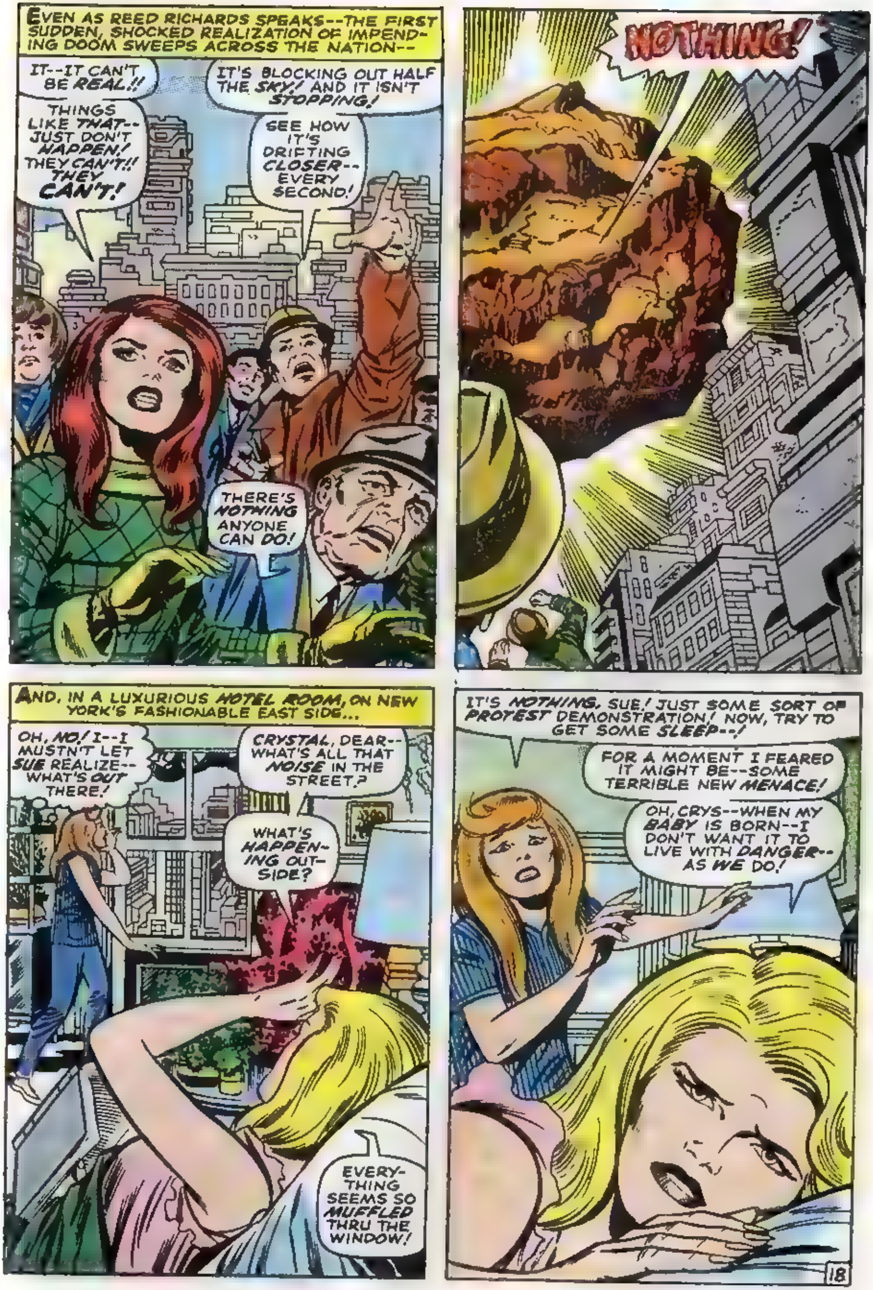
HOPE YA BRUNG A LIFE BELT, SWEETIE!
GOOD GOING, PARTNER!
NOW I'LL GIVE THAT RING-A-DING THING A DOSE OF THE SAME!
SSAK
NUTS! THAT CREEP'S AN INSULT TO US GENU-WINE BLUSHIN' BEAUTIES!
AND HERE GOES THE LAST OF THEM!
WE ALL GOT OFF PRETTY EASY THIS TIME!
HEY! YOU GOT MALAVAH IN YOUR HEAD, OR SOMETHIN'?
WADDAYA MEAN WE GOT OFF EASY?
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO'RE LUCKY WE DIDN'T TAKE 'EM APART 'N SEE WHAT MAKES 'EM TICK!
THEY DON'T EVEN COUNT, BEN!
WE'VE ONLY WON A BRIEF DELAY!
REED--LOOK!! THERE IN THE SKY--!
A MENTAL ASTRO-IMAGE--FILLING THE VERY HEAVENS ABOVE US!!
IT CAN ONLY BE--GALACTUS!
I AM GALACTUS!
IT'S DAZZLING--BLINDING--MEANT FOR OUR EYES ALONE!
HEED YOU MY WORDS, MORTALS--
FOR, EVEN PATIENCE SUCH AS MINE MAY BE EXHAUSTED!
I HEAR 'IM--
BUT HOW?? THERE AINT ANY SOUND!
16

YOU MUST REVEAL THE HIDING PLACE OF MY HERALD--THE SILVER SURFER!
THE HECK WE WILL!
YOU DON'T SCARE US, BIG SHOT!
WE'LL NEVER TURN 'IM IN, HEAR? NEVER!
NO, BEN! DON'T SAY IT!
WASSA-MATTER, STRETCH? TURNIN' CHICKEN?
YOU FOOL! NOW HE'LL THINK WE KNOW!
YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO DEFY GALACTUS!
THEREFORE, YOU MUST REAP THE CONSEQUENCES!
HE'S--FADING AWAY--!
HE'S GONE!--BUT, WHAT DID HE MEAN--ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES?
GALACTUS DOESN'T BLUFF, BEN!
AWW, WHO CARES? HE WUZ JUST BLUFFIN'!
BECAUSE OF YOUR IDIOTIC OUTBURST, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT WE'RE IN FOR NOW!
HEY! YOU TRYIN' TA TELL ME SOME-THIN'?
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE SURFER IS--BUT YOU MADE IT SOUND LIKE WE DO!
WOULDJA TELL HIM IF YA DID KNOW?
OF COURSE NOT!
THEN WHAT'S THE DIFF?
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND!
WHAT'S TO UNDERSTAND? ALL WE GOTTA DO IS--
HEY! WHAT'S THAT?
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF GIANT METEOR--HEADING THIS WAY!
WORSE THAN THAT--IT'S AN ACTUAL PLANETOID!!
GALACTUS HAS DIVERTED IT FROM ITS COURSE!
IF IT ISN'T STOPPED--IT CAN ATOMIZE HALF THE CONTINENT!
17



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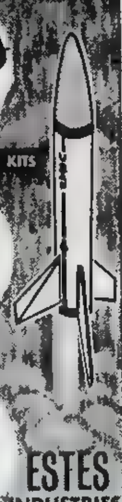

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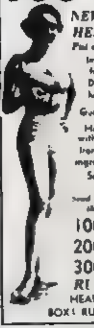

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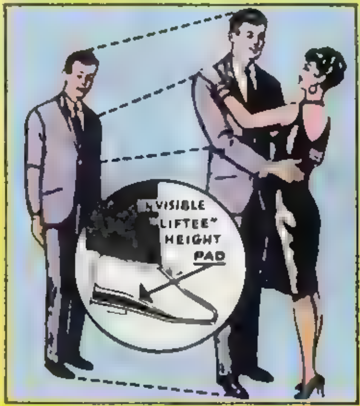

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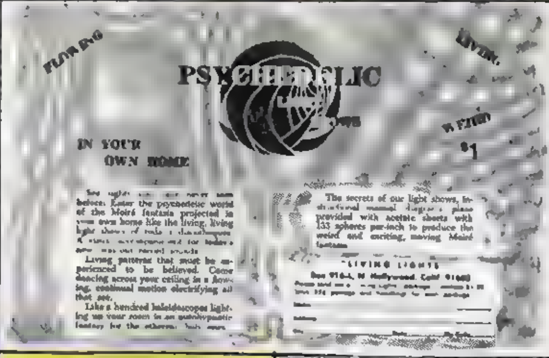

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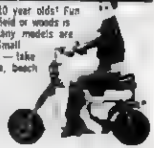

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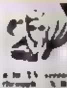

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--PRETENDING THAT EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT--WHEN A NIGHTMARE IS COMING TO LIFE--JUST OUTSIDE OUR WINDOW!
CAN IT INVOLVE--JOHNNY--AND THE OTHERS?
WHERE ARE THEY? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THEM?
BUT, PERHAPS IT'S BEST THAT CRYSTAL DOESN'T KNOW--
IT LOOKS LIKE YA CAN REACH OUT'N TOUCH IT!
THAT'S BECAUSE OF ITS SIZE!
IT'S STILL MANY MILES AWAY!
BUT, IT KEEPS GETTING CLOSER--!
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF MINUTES BEFORE IT--IT--I CAN'T EVEN SAY IT!
NO USE, JOHNNY! IT'S FAR TOO BIG--AND FAR TOO CLOSE!
REED! MY NOVA FLAME! MAYBE IF I REACH PEAK INTENSITY--?
BUT, WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING--ANYTHING!
WE WILL, LAD! WE WILL!
IS THAT ALL YOU CAN DO? YOU CAN'T MAKE IT GO 'WAY--BY SHUTTING YOUR EYES!
QUIET!!
IF I THINK HARD ENOUGH--THOUGHT WAVES HAVE AN INFINITE RANGE--!
THOUGHT WAVES??!
OUR ONE CHANCE--OUR ONE LONE, OUTSIDE HOPE--LIES IN THE INCALCULABLE POWER OF GALACTUS!
SINCE HE POSSESSES THE CAPACITY TO TRANSMIT HIS THOUGHTS THRU IMMEASURABLE DISTANCES--
IT STANDS TO REASON THAT HE CAN ALSO RECEIVE MENTAL IMPULSES IN THE SAME MANNER!
HEAR ME, GALACTUS! WE WILL FIND THE SILVER SURFER FOR YOU! I SWEAR IT!
ALL WE NEED IS--TIME!
19

NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...

THE SENSES-SHATTERING SURPRISES GO ON AND ON—!

ITEM! You knew we'd do it sooner or later! First, we gave CAPTAIN AMERICA and the Incredible HULK their own mags, immediately followed by the cataclysmic appearances of IRON MAN and SUB-MARINER in their own pulse-pounding publications. Now, just as you've demanded, NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD, and the ever-mystifying DR. STRANGE have been awarded their own individual mags — on sale at this very minute (if you can make your way thru the crowds)! Yep, once again munificent Marvel gives you the rare opportunity to acquire a pair of practically priceless collectors' item first editions — as well as the chance to follow the frenzied fabled foibles of two of your favorite far-out frolickers in their own fantasy-filled feature-length books! (If only the word "books" also began with an f, we'd have set some kind of nutty record! Oh well . . .) So, don't waste a minute! For a penny less than two-bits, you can latch onto two of the newest, most exciting titles in print today — the demon-drenched drama of DR. STRANGE, and hard-bitten hang-ups of NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD! Darlin' Doc is drawn by Dapper Dan Adkins, while nitty-gritty Nick is tossed at you by Jaunty Jimmy Steranko! All that's left to say is GRAB 'EM, pilgrim! They're two more of Marvel's finest!

ITEM! Hang loose, hallowed one! You aint heard nothin' yet! At this very moment — even as you read these mind-expanding words — our bleary-eyed Bullpen brethren are busily creating full-length masterpieces featuring a whole NEW array of Marvel stars — power-packed sensations soon to be headlined in their own strips — all-time greats such as DR. DOOM — KA-ZAR — SILVER SURFER — and others too startling to mention! They'll all be yours in '68, just as we promised! Or, in the words of Fearless Forbush—"Who SAYS this isn't the Second Golden Age of Marvel!"

ITEM! We can't keep you in suspense any longer! It's time to unveil the final rank of Marveldom at last! You've already memorized our first five titles — RFO (Real Frantic One), a buyer of at least three Marvel mags per month — QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer), one who's had a letter printed within our pulsating pages — TTB (Titanic True Believer), he who hath won a No-Prize — KOF (Keeper of the Flame), one who recruits a newcomer to our ranks — and PMM (Permanent Marvelite Maximus), the supreme award for any who already possess the four preceding titles! And now, our special sixth category — FFF (Fearless Front Facer), a purely honorary degree, approved and awarded by Smilin' Stan and a carefully chosen committee, for devotion to Marveldom above and beyond the call of duty! There you have 'em, faithful one — the complete list of Marvel titles, with which you may sign your daily correspondence, endorse your Nobel Peace Prize, or engrave upon the back of your Phi Beta Kappa pin. Now, if only WE can remember which is which!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #8: Run for the hills, gang — he's back! None other than feeble Forbush-Man has returned, to tackle almost every superhero in sight! It's the whackiest, wildest adventure into hysteria you've ever howled at! And wait'll you see who poor Forbie has to fight!

battle and still come out the loser? Well, it might be hard for you or us — but you've gotta see the maddening end of Spidey's adventure with the Kingpin — and the pounding problem that now awaits him!

AVENGERS #52: The Panther arrives on the Avengers scene — just in time to be accused of murdering everybody's favorite Assemblers—and then, to top it all off, along comes—the Grim Reaper! Hooo boy! It's a mind-snapper from start to finish!

X-MEN #44: The high-flying Angel escapes from the clutches of Magneto and digs out to find help — only to be confronted by the most drastically different good-bad guy since the Silver Surfer! We call him . . . the Red Raven — but you're gonna call him — great!

DAREDEVIL #40: Trying to save the world from the Exterminator's dreaded T-Ray, ol' Hornhead himself falls victim to the weirdest weapon of all time! And that's just the way the Ape-Man, Bird Man, and Cat-Man want it! No wonder we call it "The Fallen Hero!"

MIGHTY THOR #152: We'll never get ourselves out of this one! The pandemonium increases as Odin, Ulik, Loki, Balder, Sif, Karnilla, and the Destroyer — are all tangled up in the most colossally complicated plot since the Iliad!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #102: Well, it finally happened! The fearsome Fourth Sleeper has awakened—and now, just as the Red Skull planned, he sets out to destroy all civilization as we know it! And, while he's at it, Cap has his hands full with the evil Exiles!

INCREDIBLE HULK #104: After Asgardians and awesome aliens, you'd think an earth-born villain would be a pushover for ol' Green-Skin! But — not the rampaging Rhino! He's a brain-bustin' blast!

IRON MAN #2: Would'ja believe a vociferous new villain called . . . the Demolisher, who possesses all the peerless powers of Iron Man himself? If not, just latch onto this illustrious ish! If it doesn't make a believer of you — we give up!

SUB-MARINER #2: This is it! At long last the most anxiously awaited clash of the year takes place when Triton leaves the Inhumans' sanctuary to tackle Subby — and the seven seas will never be the same again!

MARVEL'S SPACE-BORN SUPER-HERO! CAPTAIN MARVEL #2: With America's greatest missile complex in danger of being obliterated, Captain Marvel must defeat a villain with the combined powers of the Fantastic Four — the Super Skrull!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD (PREMIERE ISH): Following a ghastly assassination attempt on the life of Nick Fury, the stalwarts of SHIELD must learn . . . "Who Is Scorpio"—or die trying! James Bond fans, eat your hearts out!

DR. STRANGE (PREMIERE ISH): The Master of the Mystic Arts is finally in a mag of his own — and what more fitting way to kick off this stunning new series than with . . . "The Coming of Dr. Strange"? Amulet-polishers everywhere — this one's just for you!

SGT. FURY #54: Because you demanded it, Izzy Cohen blazes into combat again in a death-defying dash for freedom through the steaming jungles of Burma! Does he make it? Only after 20 pages of block-bustin' battle-action will you find out!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #3: With their men captured by the legions of Baron Strucker, Capt. Savage and his Japanese counterpart, Sgt. Joe Morita, must fight side by side for survival on Hydra's island fortress! A guts-and-glory saga you won't forget!

MARVEL SUPERHEROES #14: An all-new, never-before-printed super-saga starring the one and only — SPIDER-MAN! All this plus more golden-age adventures of CAPTAIN AMERICA, SUB-MARINER, and the HUMAN TORCH, for a mere quarter? You'd better believe it!

MARVEL TALES #14: SPIDEY, GIANT-MAN, THOR, and the magnificent MARVEL BOY — almost more than mortal Marvelite can bear! It's a must for you glitzy groovers in this goofy generation!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #15: The FF, Iron Man, Doctor Strange, and the Hulk — all in one incredible issue! Just goes to prove that only Marvel has the mags you never get tired of — Marvel after Marvel!

And now... THE MOST SENSATIONAL SCOOP OF THE YEAR!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Okay, we admit it! We just can't keep a secret! We're so excited about our newest and most ambitious project that we've GOT to tell you about it or we'll just plain bust! Remember how we always tried to upgrade the image of comic magazines? Well, we're now about to take our biggest step towards realizing that goal! Starting next month, mighty Marvel will present an entirely new concept in illustrated adventure tales — a magazine as different from the ordinary comic as a guided missile is different from a spitball!

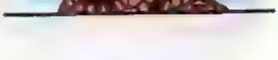
It'll be bigger than the mag you're now reading — and will be printed on far more expensive, high-quality paper. The cover will be a full-color painting, and the price will be 35¢! Also, since it's a new, larger size, some dealers may not display it with their comics, but rather among other magazines — so be sure to look for it carefully. And, if you don't see it, ask for it — demand it — cry for it!

Yet, despite the fact that this sensational issue will be a turning point in magazine history, it will feature the same thrills, action, and spectacular surprises for which Marvel is famous! And the artwork — hooo boy! Just wait till you see those dazzling drawings; clearer, sharper, far more dramatic than you ever imagined any illustrated epic could be!

But now you're wondering about the title! Which character will be featured? You're hoping we selected the right one for so vital a test! Well, face front, flame-keeper! We think we've chosen the very same hero you yourself would have picked — possibly the most popular single fantasy character in the world today — none other than — your friendly neighborhood SPIDER-MAN!

That's all we can tell you now, 'cause we're still writing and drawing like crazy to make our deadline. But, while you're waiting for the big day, be sure to sock away three dimes and a nickel so that you'll have 'em when our 35¢ SPIDEY hits the stands. All of comicdom has been demanding this giant step forward — this long-awaited leap to the next plateau of literary greatness — and soon it will be yours! So, whatever you do — wherever you go — don't fumble the ball. By working together, we'll make the comic strip art form more prized and respected than ever thruout the world! And SPIDER-MAN is just the swinger to do it!

Excelsior! —Smiley.



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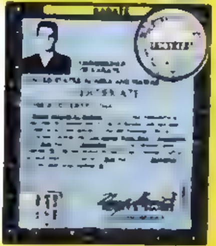

I spent 3 years in Japan learning the little-known Oriental art of KARATE, and was awarded the 4th Degree Black Belt—symbol of the highest possible proficiency. Now I'm ready to show you every secret I learned—and I guarantee I'll make YOU into a KARATE Specialist within hours—or every cent you paid for my information will be refunded!

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In this book I take you step by step through the fundamentals of KARATE so that you understand clearly and immediately how these amazing principles operate to make you master of ANYONE you may meet—no matter how big he is, or how much he weighs!

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With KARATE you can disarm an opponent rushing you with his fists, a broken bottle, a revolver, or any kind of bludgeon. You can turn an aggressor's attack into your advantage with only your bare hands, your arms and your legs.

What *would* you do if you were insulted by a bully? . . . or if 3 or 4 hoodlums passed remarks about your girl? . . . or if you were suddenly mugged from behind? . . . or if someone came at you with a baseball bat? If you're like millions of other Americans, you'd be absolutely helpless and you'd be ashamed, humiliated, robbed, beaten, kicked and pitiful in the eyes of your girl or friends.

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With KARATE you can disarm and disable two, three and even four attackers. You can apply a simple pressure of your thumb and finger against any one of a dozen vital nerve centers of your opponent and watch his gun or knife fall from his limp hand while he himself sinks to the ground completely helpless and faint.

You can calmly watch a bully come at you with clenched fists—and see him sail over your head without having had any contact with him other than with the sole of your shoe! When you complete my instructions, you'll be ready for ANYONE—for ANY emergency—and you will feel supremely confident of being able to handle any situation perfectly.

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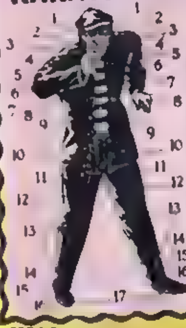

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- [ ] I understand that by studying KARATE I am morally bound and obligated never to practice KARATE as an aggressor (only to defend myself) and will never abuse it.

Fantastic Four (4) Fan Page

Send letters to: LEE and KIRBY
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV.
NEW YORK 10022 N.Y.

Dear Stan and Jack,

It is with a heavy heart that I prepare myself to write this missive, probably the most serious Marvel will ever receive from me. Perhaps I should wait until F.F. #72 hits the stands before I send you this, but when I realized that I needed to write it, I had to do so immediately. My topic is, as you have realized, the Fantastic Four. Now, we all know that this is, with little doubt, the greatest creation in the history of comics. But lately it has been in a slump. I don't speak lightly, or from little experience, for I have read nearly every issue, and it has been less than an hour since I carefully examined the issues of which I speak. When I say you have been in a slump, it doesn't carry the meaning it would for any other magazine. The stories are still action-packed, and magnificently illustrated. What is missing? The indefinable beauty of previous issues. Turn back to the issues in which the F.F. battled the Inhumans, Galactus, and the Changeling. These stories were written with power, and possessed what I can only describe as an aura of poetic expressiveness. In these issues, Stan, you portrayed human emotions with a depth of feeling, a grandeur and a glory that made them deathless pieces of literature. The searing loneliness of the Surfer in exile, the pain of the misshapen Thing, the agony of Johnny separated from his true love were all revealed as surely as if they were my own emotions. And the good, too, were staunchly shown; the incredible strength of the bonds that hold the foursome together was never so evident as in these issues. Second in importance, but just as distressing, is the loss of scope. Between the Inhumans and Galactus you, Stan, created a cosmos of fantasy that captured and held my restless imagination. The sheer length and breadth, the matchless grandeur of these stories has disappeared. You touched the former glory of these issues when Reed was lost in the Negative Zone, but after that, the silly time-wasting with things like Blastaar proved most distressing. I cannot criticize without offering advice, so these are my words to you. Use the magnificent imagination you have displayed so often before to its full extent, Stan. Recapture the flowing fantasy and daring emotion that you have so skillfully portrayed before, and all will be well. This was not an easy letter to write. The Fantastic Four has meant a lot to me, as the highpoint of a type of literature which has held my imagination for years, and I feel a great admiration for you and Jack as its creators. I've probably missed some of the points I meant to put across as I sat down to write, but I hope I've passed on my feelings to you. I take comfort in the fact that you will take this letter as it was written, and hope that the sting of criticism will be modified by the fact that it was only written because of the profound enjoyment I have gained from your publications.

Bruce Coville, R.D. #2, Box 194
Phoenix, N.Y. 13135

We wouldn't figure it any other way, Bruce. Each time we sit down to plan out an issue, it's with the intention of making it better and more exciting than anything that went before it. The only way we have of knowing whether we hit or missed that mark is when you, and each and every other true believer out there, write and tell us. Be it brickbats or bouquets, you faithful, frantic ones are where it's at!

Dear Stan and Jack,

No! You guys can't do this to us. The F.F. are supposed to be a team, and a team takes teamwork and harmony. Look at the F.F.! All they seem to be doing is fighting among themselves. If you don't believe me, look at some of them! In issue #33 they don't even trust themselves, then things were okay for a while, then in #51 the Thing is changed to Ben and the other three don't know that the Thing isn't Ben. Then again O.K. until #68, 69, 70, and 71 and they've got to fight among themselves. I know the Mad Thinker changed Ben but if you look through some F.F.'s, you'll see that Ben says he wants to stay as The Thing. But now!! #71! Reed wants to quit; this is stupid! If this was going to happen Reed and Sue should never have been married. Please keep the F.F. together. I can't say I'll stop reading them if you don't because I would never do that, but please keep them together.

Joe Sykora, 7428 Satsuma Ave.
Sun Valley, Calif. 91352

Rest easy, Joe—as long as we still call the book the FANTASTIC FOUR, you know the group isn't gonna be split up too much. We agree with your remarks about teamwork and harmony, but we also think that another sign of a successful team is their ability to conquer their individual difficulties and bounce back as a better unit than ever, which (so far) our boisterous batch has been able to do. And with flame-keepers like you backing 'em up, we've got a hunch they'll keep right on doing it!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Greetings from the Watcher. I have sworn an oath never to interfere with the lives of mankind, but now I must break that promise and step in before you run your mags into the ground. What I mean is the way you kill off your villains and then bring them back. So far you've brought back the Red Skull, Zemo, and even Doc Doom. You totally destroy the realism in your mags by doing this. That kind of stuff is for Brand Echh. Oh, by the way, bring back the Red Ghost. Since he invaded my home back in F.F. #13 (or was it F. F. #29?), I notice that I'm missing a few of my Ant-man episodes, and I'd like to get my hands on him. Another bad feature of your mags is the way you're always switching artists on your mags. I remember when your greatest artist, Jack Kirby (as if I had to tell you) drew the F.F., Cap, the Avengers, the X-Men, Thor, and Sgt. Fury at the same time. Why don't you have Doc Strange conjure up a few more Kirbys or have Shield make some Life-Model-Decoys of Jack. Come every third Tuesday of the month, I wait in line with the other heroes and villains to get my Marvel mags. I could tell you about the mistakes in your mags, but for all eternity I must remain silent and record all that I see.

Kenneth Rekrut, 64 Netherlands Ave.
Cranston, R. I.

Bad enough that most fans tell us about our mistakes, Kenny, but if you're recording 'em for eternity . . . Sheesh! If only Doc Strange or Shield *could* do what you suggest . . . We may be able to kill off villains and bring them back at will, but Jack Kirbys are a lot harder to come by! Once he's gone, that's it! And keeping him on six continuous features forever might just have done it! Of course, if there were some way to keep him from sleeping . . .

Dear Stan and Jack,

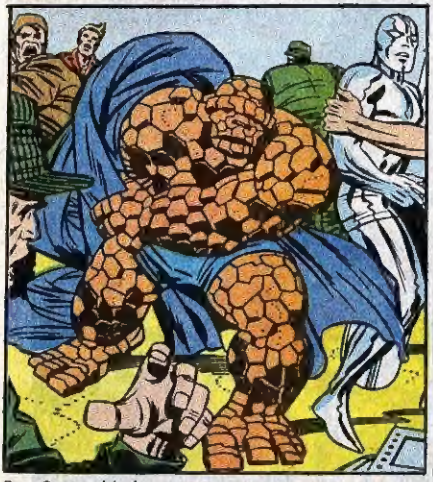
I could write a longer letter. You deserve more than this, and I know it. But I shall merely reveal the reason that evoked this response and prompted me to send this note. I refer you to F.F. #72, page 13, panel 5. What can I say, except that, to me, this panel is the most memorable one since Daredevil's reply to Reed in F.F. #39, page 17, panel 5. These masterpieces of the writer are products of only one such as — Marvel. An *Nth* prize for you, Stan. That's right. And men shall call you — author!

Anthony Kowalik, 15641 Union Ave.
Harvey, Illinois 60426

There are times when we're too overwhelmed to do anything but play it straight — Thank you, Tony! For any of you who missed the exchange referred to, it went as follows: Sue — "But what . . . can he DO . . .

Now hear this! Please keep all letters no longer than ONE PAGE! Have mercy, mellow ones!

against the all-powerful SILVER SURFER??" The Watcher — "All-powerful? There is only ONE who deserves that name! And HIS only weapon . . . is LOVE!"



Dear Stan and Jack,

F.F. SPECIAL #5 brought mixed feelings to me. The first story, "Divide and Conquer", (not "Divided We Fall" as you told us in the Bullpen Bulletin), which I thought was a rather inappropriate title, was a little corny in having a sub-microscopic villain. I would have preferred a normal-sized alien. Sue having a baby is something I have never seen tried before in any other comic-book (a female super-hero having a baby, that is), and I think it is touches of realism like this that make Marvel great. As for "This is a Plot?", that was a plot!! I nearly committed suicide by laughing myself to death. I think the funniest part was "a beatle-banged ballet dancer who blinds his foes with phosphorescent dandruff." "The Peerless Power of the Silver Surfer" was terrific. Try to bring back Quasimodo and have him fight the F.F. The Inhumans strip in THOR has my O.K., I'd rather read advertisements than "Tales of Asgard." One thing more before I close, must you repeat titles? You have used "Enter Dr. Doom" twice, in the F.F. and AVENGERS, and now you are using "What Price Victory" again in Iron Man.

Neil Maloney, 11 Blunt St.
Bjuildford, N.S.W., Australia

You know us, Neil, once we come up with a good thing, we can't resist using it again! But just to maintain the friendly ties with all of you from down *under*, we'll watch it in the future with our rambunctious repeats of titles past . . . To further prove that we mean well, special effort is being made to make sure that your comment about "Tales of Asgard" doesn't get across the rainbow bridge; Odin's not a big one for constructive criticism.

Dear Stan and Jack,

We, the denizens of the fourth floor of Craven's Hall at the Men's Residence Center of Indiana University, salute thee for thy untiring fight against the dark forces of Brand Echh. To assist in this battle, we hereby offer the following piece of accumulated knowledge:

You have been fond of distinguishing in your publications between Homo Sapiens and Homo Superior, or mutants. Yet, you have classified some of your swinging superheroes wrongly. As anyone who has taken introductory Biology here at I.U. knows, a mutant is one who has had a stabile change in his genes, so that subsequent cells inherit the change. What we are slowly getting to is that your most famous fighting team, the Fantastic Four, are mutants, not Homo Sapiens, as often stated in the past. They were Homo Sapiens before being bombarded with the cosmic rays, which then changed their genetic make-up, and this change is inherited by the subsequent cells of their bodies. This in no way diminshes their standing in the community, and certainly not in our eyes. The F.F. will always stand as a symbol of what is good, just and worthy of preservation in the human race, whether Sapiens or mutant.

Ed Martin, and the rest of the Marvel Maniacs,
Box 54, MRC, Indiana Univ., Bloomington, Ind.

We're glad you and your buddies still feel that way, Edward, 'cause we're a little shook up . . . Just imagine! With 75 issues of the Fantastic Four under our belts, we find out we've *really* been doing the X-MEN! In order to avoid having the same title appear twice each month, maybe all you I.U. introductory Biology enrollees will be willing to look the other way while we fall back on one of Webster's definitions for mutation as "A sudden variation, the *offspring* differing from its parents in some well-marked character or characters due to changes within the chromosomes or genes." Our loose (maybe shaky's a better word) interpretation of this is that a mutant would have his super-power from birth, while our frollicking foursome got their powers accidentally. (And if all this is giving us trouble now, what's gonna happen when Sue and Reed have their baby?!)

Dear Stan and Jack,

I have a question pertaining to the Inhumans. From past issues of the F.F. in which the Inhumans were trying to escape from the Negative Barrrier and all, I gathered that Medusa was in love with Black Bolt and vice versa (Refer to F.F. #54). BUT, up pops THOR #149 in which Medusa says (In the second feature "Tales of the Inhumans"): "Surely you remember us, Black Bolt! I'm your COUSIN Medusa — and these are your cousins Karnak and Gorgon!" Uh, would you mind clearing up that point, since most cousins aren't that deeply in love? Oh, yes, you people have done a lot with the F.F. — split them up, had Ben turn against them, put 'em back together, given Sue a baby that she probably won't have for years, and made about three zillion faithful followers realize that what they buy each month for twelve cents isn't a comic-book, but one of the classical masterpieces . . . with hundreds of mistakes in them to write and complain about!

Keith White, Box 784
Bells, Texas 75414

Congratulations, Keith, for coming up with the REAL reason for all our burgeoning boners . . . Don't think it isn't hard reaching our quota of monumental malapropisms issue after issue, never relaxing for a moment, lest one mistake fail to get in and deprive a Merry Marvelite of ample opportunity for fun at fault finding! Ah, Keith, if only it were true . . . Unfortunately, when we goof, it's generally the real goods! But, let's face it, perfection might be pretty dull. (And from our track record so far, THAT you shouldn't be concerned about!) As for Medusa and Black Bolt, don't worry about a thing . . . They're very DISTANT cousins!

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Paul Sullivan enrolled at 14. His Famous Artists training helped him work his way through college.

Kathleen Gironda of Indiana, Pennsylvania, was an 18-year-old salesgirl in a department store. She still works for a department store, but now it's as an advertising artist and fashion illustrator.

With Famous Artists training James Ryan, formerly a clerk, has become an illustrator at Hughes Aircraft—and turns out a steady stream of well-paying free-lance artwork in his spare time.

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It started over 18 years ago when a group of America's most successful artists—men like Albert Dorne, Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Al Parker and Stevan Dohanos—met in New York City. They knew that all over America there were people who liked to draw who could be turned into good artists. Albert Dorne asked, "Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years?"

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Famous Artists Talent Test

To find others with art talent worth developing, the Famous Artists created a 12-page Talent Test. Thousands paid to take this test, but now the School offers and grades it free. Men and women who do well on the test—or offer other sufficient evidence of art talent—may enroll in the School. But there's no obligation. Simply mail the coupon below.

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Famous Artists School
Studio 5740
Westport, Conn. 06880

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